Amendment to the Claims

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A tablet feeder comprising:

a tablet accommodating section capable of accommodating a multiplicity of tablets;

a tablet array member which is rotatably disposed in the tablet accommodating section and which, while being driven and rotated, retains the tablets one after another in pockets defined in an outer periphery thereof such that the tablets can be discharged at a discharge position; and

a partitioning member including a fixing portion and a partitioning portion having a plurality of brush elements that extend from the fixing portion and terminate in ends,

the partitioning portion being disposed in the vicinity of the discharge position so as to partition the pocket at the discharge position and enter between upper tablets and a lower tablet so that the upper tablets are prevented from falling into a lower portion of the pocket, and thereby the tablets retained in the pockets of the tablet array member are discharged by a predetermined number,

wherein at least two adjacent brush elements, among the brush elements constituting the partitioning portion of the partitioning member, are connected at the ends thereof so as to form a U-shaped tip portion.

9. (Previously Presented) The tablet feeder according to claim 8, wherein at least one of the brush elements located at an end of the partitioning portion is a linear member.

10. (Previously Presented) The tablet feeder according to claim 8, wherein the brush elements are tilted toward a downstream side relative to a rotational direction of the tablet array member.

11. (Previously Presented) The tablet feeder according to claim 8, wherein each of the brush elements has a cross section that is generally oval shape, and a minor axis of the oval shape is directed along the rotational direction of the tablet array member.

12. (Previously Presented) The tablet feeder according to claim 8, wherein each of the brush elements comprises a plurality of filaments that are held together so as to form the U-shape and the rounded tip.

13. (New) A tablet feeder comprising:

a tablet accommodating section capable of accommodating a multiplicity of tablets;

a tablet array member which is rotatably disposed in the tablet accommodating section and which, while being driven and rotated, retains the tablets one after another in pockets defined in an outer periphery thereof such that the tablets can be discharged at a discharge position; and

a partitioning member fixed on a bottom outer surface of the table accommodating section, the partitioning member including a fixing portion and a partitioning portion having a plurality of linear elements having elasticity,

the partitioning portion projecting into the tablet accommodating section in the vicinity of the discharge position so as to partition the pocket at the discharge position and enter between upper tablets and a lower tablet so that the upper tablets are prevented from falling into a lower

portion of the pocket, and thereby the tablets retained in the pockets of the tablet array member are discharged by a predetermined number,

wherein at least two adjacent linear elements, among the plurality of linear elements constituting the partitioning portion of the partitioning member, are connected at ends thereof that are remote from the fixing portion to form a U-shaped tip portion.

14. (New) The tablet feeder according to claim 13, wherein the linear elements are tilted toward a downstream side relative to a rotational direction of the tablet array member.

15. (New) The tablet feeder according to claim 13, wherein each of the linear elements has a cross section that is generally oval shape, and a minor axis of the oval shape is directed along the rotational direction of the tablet array member.

16. (New) The tablet feeder according to claim 13, wherein each of the linear elements comprises a plurality of filaments that are held together so as to form the U-shape and the rounded tip.